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14 December 1971

25X1

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

ITALY: Communists now supporting Moro or Saragat
for presidency. (Page 6)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/05/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A020700050002-5

Next 6 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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ITALY: The Italian Communist Party (PCI) is now pushing for Christian Democrat (CD) Aldo Moro or possibly incumbent Social Democrat Giuseppe Saragat in the presidential election that began last Thursday.

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[REDACTED] the Communists would now support Moro or his ally, CD titular chief Zaccagnini, if the CD were to jettison its official candidate Amintore Fanfani in favor of either man. Otherwise, the PCI reportedly is inclined to support the re-election of Saragat.

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The first six ballots cast in the 1,008-man Electoral College have shown a solid 40-percent vote from the left for Socialist De Martino with Fanfani polling almost as many center and right-wing CD votes. Saragat's followers and left-wing Christian Democrats have been withholding the winning margin of votes from Fanfani.

The CD decided to abstain from both ballots on 13 December--evidently to reassess Fanfani's candidacy.

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[REDACTED] In recent months many leaders on the left of the political spectrum have expressed the fear that Fanfani would exercise the powers of the presidency in an authoritarian way.

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14 Dec 71

Central Intelligence Bulletin

6

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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